the protection at the State level of the National Minorities Commission?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, this supplementary does not directly relate to the Home Ministry. But, I will say that this is not a question but a suggestion for action.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Home Minister whether the Government's policy is to recruit people on the basis of religion, whether there are policies under which some people are consciously kept away and whether there is any discriminatory attitude by which some persons are kept away.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: There is no discrimination against anybody. No favouritism is shown to any community. This is the policy of the Government.

SHRI M.P.A. SAMAD SAMADANI: One major aspect of the main question is yet to be answered by the hon. Minister. The main question has an important part. That is about the recommendation of the National Integration Council.

This recommendation of the National Integration Council cannot be ignored by just stating that we are not for reservation and that we are not for recruitment. The National Integration Council is a very responsible body. It has, in its past record, great deliberations and recommendations regarding the unity of the nation. I think, there are cultural...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Bidding Exemption to Hydcl Projects

*404. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new hydel projects will be exempted from competitive bidding; and

(b) whether this will apply to all hydel projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Power generation projects with an estimated cost exceeding Rs. 100 crores and promoted through the private sector after 18.2.1995 are required to follow the competitive bidding process. Competitive bidding is not mandatory for projects meant purely for captive use and for expansion projects. This policy applies to hydel projects also.

Ali Sena

*405. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the existence of Ali Sena as reported in 'The Pioneer', dated the 10th June, 1998;

(b) what are the aims and objects of Ali Sena; and

(c) whether Ali Sena is confined to a particular community/section, and if so, which ones?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Ali Sena (Full name Rash-triya Ali Sena) was reportedly floated in early part of 1996 to gain popularity among Muslims in view of the elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

Construction of Water Canal

*406. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: WilLthe Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a water canal on the Kutch border of India as a defence measure between India and Pakistan;

(b) when was it proposed by the defence authorities;

(c) whether Government are willing to consider the proposal or not;

(d) if so, at what level of consideration the project is lying and when Government will start the actual work; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons for not considering such vital project from defence point of view?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The defence authorities have not proposed construction of water canal on the Kutch border of India as a defence measure.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) & (b) of the question.

Sharing of post of D.G.Q.A.

*407. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a commitment of sharing of posts in DGQA between Service Officers and civilian DQAS Officers in the ratio of 50:50 at each level was made by the Secretary, (DP&S);

(b) if so, the details of actual holding by the two cadres, level-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the civilian DQAS Cadre Officers have been deprived of 50% posts at the levels of Director, Additional Director, Joint Director and equivalent grades; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, and the steps taken to restore parity between the two streams?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

1. In December 1979, the then Secretary Defence Production & Supplies, had proposed that posts in Directorate General of Inspections (DGI) at the level of Senior Scientific Officer I (SSO I) and above should be shared equally by the Civilian and Service Officers and that no post should be reserved for either category.

2. Thereafter Government appointed a Committee of Officers on 5.12.1981 to recommend on the bifurcation of posts on the basis of functions and job content so that separate channels for promotion could be provided for Civilian and Service Cadre.

3. The Committee identified posts accordingly to be manned by the two Cadres. A ratio of 44:56 of Civilian to Service Officers emerged. Govt accepted the recommendation in August 1982. The existing strength of the Civilian Cadre to the Service Cadre is in the ratio of 42:58. The ratio of Civilian and Service officers actually in position at SSO I level and above is 40.8:59.2. Posts, postions and responsibilities are assigned to each of the cadres keeping in view the requirements, exigencies and career prospects.

पर्याटक स्थलों पर प्रदूषण

*408. **श्री बरिजिन्दर सिंह**: क्या पर्यटक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे **कि**:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 12 मार्च, 1998 के "जनसत्ता" में "पर्यटन विकास की कीमत" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच हे कि देश के अनेकों पर्यटक स्थल कूडा कचरे के ढेरों से लदे पडे हैं जिससे समूचा क्षेत्र प्रदूषित हो रहा है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री मदन लाल खुराना): (क) जी, हां,

(ख) और (ग) सरकार, अनियोजित पर्यटन विकास से पर्यावरण और पारिस्थितिकी पर पडने वाले हर सम्भव गलत प्रभाव के प्रति जागरूक है। ऐसे गलत प्रभाव से बचने के लिए उपाय किये गए हैं, यथाः

1. पारिस्थितिकी और पर्यवरण के संरक्षण के साथ साथ पर्यटन के सतत विकास को सरकार की पर्यटन नीति का आधार स्तम्भ बनाया गया है।

2. पर्यटन मंत्रालय पर्यावरण मंत्रालय द्वारा बनाए गए मानकों के कडाई से अनुपालन के